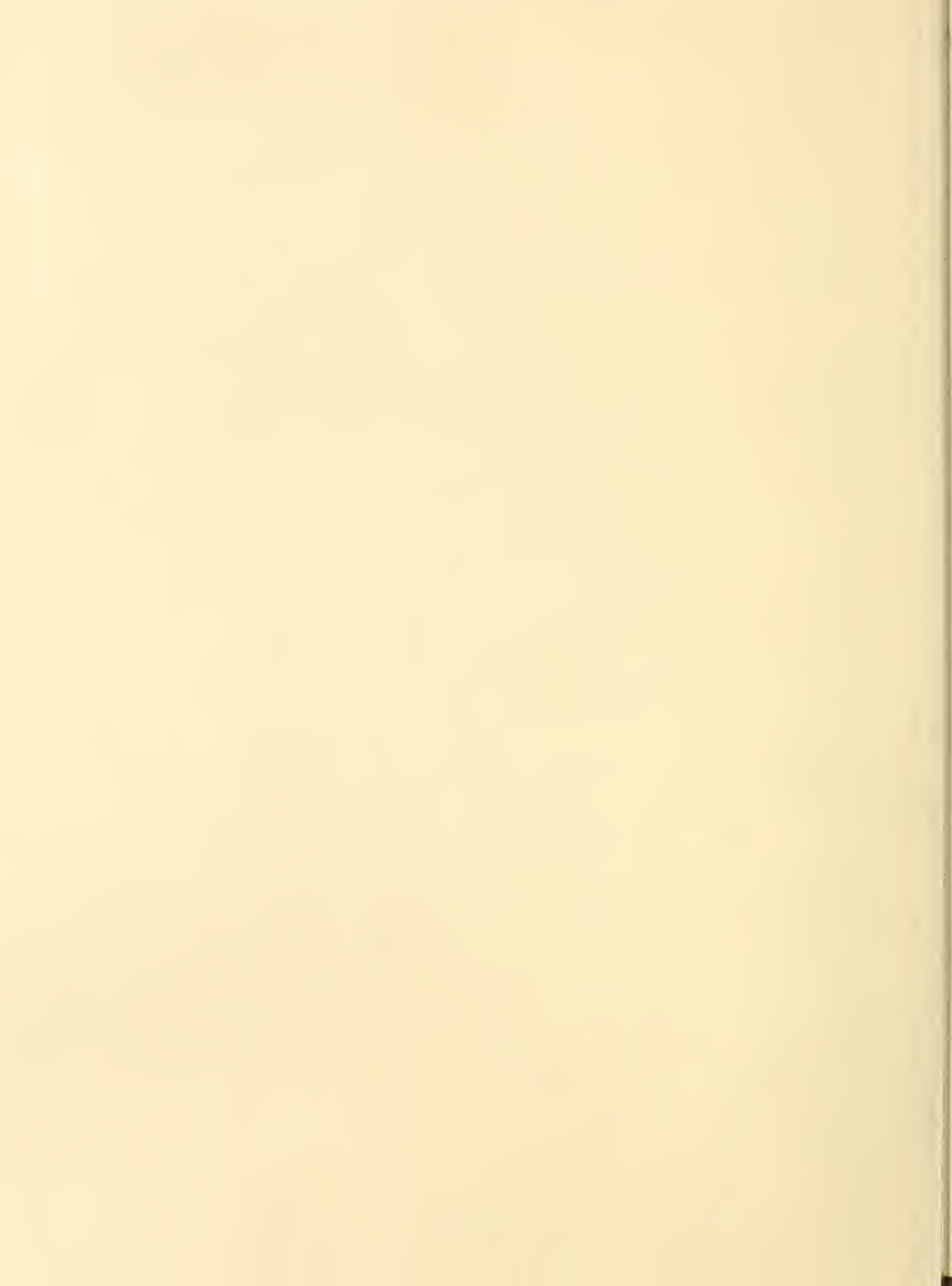


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NEW CHAIRS FOR OLD

A radio talk prepared by Mrs. Nellie J. Howard, Instructor in Textiles and Clothing, State College of Washington, and delivered by Miss Jean Stewart, Home Economist, in the Home Economics period of the Western Farm and Home Hour Wednesday, February 10, 1932, through Station KGO and seven other stations associated with the NBC-KGO network, Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.

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Every chair in every household sooner or later reaches the stage where some feminine member of the family remarks, "That old chair has seen its best days; why can't we put it upstairs or down cellar?" But if the old chair has been a favorite, this question starts strife in the family. Father wants to know why the one comfortable chair in the room has to be thrown out. Jack likes the old chair too, but hasn't had much chance to use it when dad was around. Big sister supports the scheme to retire the veteran because it is old and looks it, and because she has snagged more than one pair of hose on its roughened edges -- especially if it happens to be a wicker or grass chair.

Nowadays many such a family argument ends in a decision to let mother attempt to restore the venerable chair's youth by making it a slip cover.

Here is how she does it. First, she goes over the chair thoroughly, especially if it is a grass or wicker chair. If she finds any rough edges or broken places, she covers them with pads of cotton or unbleached muslin. She also fits these pads over the arms, the back; any place where they will better the appearance or the comfort of the chair.

Or mother may make a pattern of cheap unbleached muslin, fitting it to the chair. After using it as a pattern she can sew it up with plain seams and slip it on the chair as a protection to the outer slip, especially if the chair is wicker or grass and the surface in places happens to be rough. This extra slip would be entirely unnecessary on an upholstered chair.

Now mother is ready to choose the material for the cover.

Slip covers for chairs are made of cretonnes, warp prints, linen, crash, sateens, and many other materials. Slip covers, well made of good material give many years of service. Now it may be that mother or big sister will want to change the color scheme of the room before the slip covers wear out. With this in mind they find it well to choose a multi-colored cretonne for the covers so that they can develop different color schemes from the one pattern by picking out different tones each season to match with the plain materials in other parts of the room. But, you may say, "Why bother with a slip cover when one can buy chairs for so little money at present?"

Here are some questions for you to answer:

Will the new chair at the price of a slip cover and much more be as comfortable as the old chair?

Will the new chair harmonize with the balance of your furniture or by its newness outshine your old pieces?

(over)

Possibly you need new drapes at the windows and these made of the same material as the slip cover will help a great deal in making the chairs a part of your decorative scheme. Many times the furnishings of a room appear scattered, and it may be that you need something to draw your scheme together and the chair and drapes of one material will help wonderfully to do this.

Slip covers may be washed or dry cleaned. If one plans to wash them, then it would be wise to have the material shrunk before making it up. Avoid soaking, rubbing or twisting the covers. Squeeze the suds through them until they appear clean. Rinse several times in clear lukewarm water and gently press out the water. Iron while still damp.

As to the actual making of the slip covers, I am not going to attempt to give you directions as it would be useless. Most furniture and drapery stores and most department stores in cities make slip covers and are willing to give you advice and help if you are interested in planning one. Many of them have booklets with illustrations and directions for making the covers. I would suggest, however, that you send for a leaflet put out by the Bureau of Home Economics at Washington, D. C., and written by Bess M. Viemont, Assistant Specialist in Textiles. It is the most up-to-date and interesting material that I have found on slip covers. It is concise and also well illustrated. Ask for Leaflet 76L, "Slip Covers."

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